

## Other UDOT Traffic Information Brochures:

- Speed Limits
- School Zone Safety
- Traffic Signals
- Left Turn Traffic Signals
- Pedestrian Signals

## For More Information:

Please contact a UDOT Region Traffic Engineer located in your area of the State:

Northern Utah (801) 620-1600

Salt Lake County (801) 975-4900

Utah County (801) 227-8000

Southern Utah (435) 893-4799

Or visit the UDOT website at  
<http://www.udot.utah.gov>

## *"Listen" to the signs...*



Workers and construction activities ahead — road conditions may change.

A lane is about to end, requiring you to merge into the adjacent lane.



Lanes are shifting ahead. In this case they shift to the right.

Traffic is traveling in both directions where normally traffic is separated.



A Flagger is ahead—be prepared to stop and/or follow instructions.

You have reached the end of the work zone. Resume normal, safe driving.



Utah Department of Transportation  
Division of Traffic and Safety  
4501 South 2700 West  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-3200

## Work Zone Safety



**Division of Traffic and Safety**

# Work Zone Safety

Work Zones present a challenge to drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and construction workers. Construction workers are performing difficult tasks with live traffic just a few feet away. Drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists are traveling through unfamiliar and often changing conditions. Work Zones are established so that all road users can travel through the work zone as efficiently and safely as possible, with a minimal amount of delay, while protecting the workers performing their job duties. This brochure provides an overview of work zones and techniques to improve work zone safety.

## What is the magnitude of Work Zone accidents?

### Nationwide

The following averages are attributable to Work Zones nationally: (Source: FHWA)

- More than 40,000 people injured per year;
- More than 900 fatalities per year;
- Yearly fatalities have increased 50% over the past 5 years;
- 80% of fatalities are motorists;
- 15% of fatalities are pedestrians and bicyclists;
- 5% of fatalities are workers; and,
- As much as 20% of the National Highway System is under construction during the peak summer construction season.

### In Utah

The following occurs annually in Utah Work Zones:

- 830 total Work Zone accidents;
- 870 people injured in Work Zones; and,
- 5 fatalities in Work Zones.

## What are the laws pertaining to Construction Zones?

Speeding in Work Zones is a nationwide problem. Rear end crashes are the most common crash in Work Zones. Utah law specifies that drivers can be fined at least double the uniform recommended fine schedule for speeding in Work Zones with workers present (UCA 41-6-13).



Flaggers are frequently used in Work Zones to assist road users at key points in the Work Zone. Utah law states, "A person may not willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of any flagger at a highway construction or maintenance site to direct, control, or regulate traffic (UCA 41-6-13).

## What is UDOT doing to improve Work Zone safety?

### Work Zone Standards

The State of Utah has adopted the Federal Highway Administration's Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) as the standard for traffic controls in work zones. Working with FHWA, UDOT has also developed more stringent traffic control standards in an effort to improve work zone safety.

### Traffic Control Training

UDOT has developed training courses for traffic control personnel and flaggers. These courses involve both class time and a written exam. Those that attend the courses are given a certification and are equipped to carry out

their responsibilities in a courteous and professional manner. All traffic control personnel and flaggers on UDOT construction projects must be certified.

### Traveler Information

UDOT currently informs the public of current and planned road work through press releases to the media, the CommuterLink website ([www.commuterlink.utah.gov](http://www.commuterlink.utah.gov)), and the new 511 Traveler Information system.



## What can you do to improve Work Zone safety?

Remember these driving tips for work zones - the life you save may be your own.

### STAY ALERT AND MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS

- Dedicate your full attention to the roadway
- Avoid distractions such as changing the radio station, eating, and using a cell phone

### DON'T TAILGATE

- Follow other vehicles at a safe distance

### OBEY THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT

- Fines are doubled in Work Zones
- Workers may be present just a few feet away
- Be prepared to slow down further

### FOLLOW ALL FLAGGER INSTRUCTIONS

### EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

- Workers, work vehicles, or equipment may enter your lane without warning
- Other vehicles may slow or change lanes unexpectedly

### PAY ATTENTION TO THE ROAD

- Watch for brake lights ahead
- "Listen" to the warning signs (see back page)

### MERGE AND CHANGE LANES SAFELY

### BE PATIENT!